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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/818,721	03/27/2001	Ronald P. Sansone	F-236	1333
919	7590	01/09/2006	EXAMINER	
PITNEY BOWES INC. 35 WATERVIEW DRIVE P.O. BOX 3000 MSC 26-22 SHELTON, CT 06484-8000			VU, THONG H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2142	

DATE MAILED: 01/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/818,721

Applicant(s)

SANSONE ET AL.

Examiner

Thong H. Vu

Art Unit

2142

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2005.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/02.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

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1. Claims 1-6 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended. The Final action is appropriate.
2. The Terminal Disclaimer filed 11/21/2005 has been recorded.
3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable by Manduley [5,648,916] in view of Rosenbaum et al [Rosenbaum 5,031,223].
5. As per claim 1, Manduley discloses a method utilizing a computer system that enables a recipient to inform a carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered, said method comprises the steps of:

depositing with the carrier physical mail containing the recipient's name and physical address and the sender's name and address [Manduley, the fast mail transmitted and received by the computers, col 2 lines 1-20];

capturing by electronic and optical means the name and physical address of the recipient, and the sender from the physical mail [Manduley, electronically scanned, col 2 lines 28];

translating the name and physical address of the recipient into an e-mail address [Manduley, the fast mail is scanned by scanner, col 2 lines 20-50; converting hard copy paper mail into electronic mail, col 3 lines 58-67];

However Manduley does not detail checking a postal address database and the recipient's email database;

notifying the recipient of the availability of the deposited physical mail; notifying the carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like the physical mail delivered; notifying the carrier that the sender wants the deposited physical mail to be delivered directly to the recipient or that the sender elects to permit the recipient to divert the physical mail; and if the sender elects to permit the recipient to divert the physical mail, delivering physical mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier.

In the same endeavor, Rosenbaum discloses a system and method for processing of scanned mail wherein the system (i.e. LAN server or carrier) interacts to the operator/user workstation to provide the alternative selections of address, name which divert the mail delivery [Rosenbaum, col 8 line 42-col 10 line 45]; including using the electronic bin /mass storage or database [Rosenbaum, Fig 1]; the volume of mail is directed to each receiving location [Rosenbaum, col 10 lines 1-45]; the user can select (i.e.: permit), check, match and insert the name, address between the knowledge base program (i.e.: a postal database) and operation work station (i.e.: user workstation memory/database) [Rosenbaum, col 11 lines 1-36]

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the technique of providing the operator/user selects and changes the mailing address as taught by Rosenbaum into the Manduley's apparatus in order to utilize the control of email delivery. Doing so would provide a more effective and comprehensive way to communicate with people either by email addresses or physical mailing addresses.

6. As per claim 2, Manduley-Rosenbaum disclose the sender places an indication on the mail specifying that the mail should not be diverted by the recipient [Rosenbaum, col 8 line 42-col 10 line 45].

7. As per claim 3, Manduley-Rosenbaum disclose charging the sender for placing an indication on the mail specifying that the mail should not be diverted by the recipient [Rosenbaum, col 8 line 42-col 10 line 45].

8. As per claim 4, Manduley-Rosenbaum disclose the sender places an indication on the mail specifying that the mail should be delivered only as specified by the sender [Rosenbaum, col 8 line 42-col 10 line 45].

9. As per claim 5, Manduley-Rosenbaum disclose charging the sender for placing an indication on the mail specifying that the mail should be delivered only as specified by the sender [Rosenbaum, col 8 line 42-col 10 line 45].

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10. As per claim 6, Manduley-Rosenbaum disclose the recipient notifies a data center who notifies the carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered [Rosenbaum, col 8 line 42-col 10 line 45].

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner *Thong Vu*, whose telephone number is (571)-272-3904. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:00AM-3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, *Andrew Caldwell*, can be reached at (571) 272-3868. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PMR or Public PMR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thong Vu
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2142

